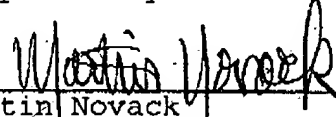


REMARKS

The Specification has been amended to remove a sentence which contains an obvious typographical error, and may cause confusion if left in the Specification. The penultimate sentence in the third paragraph at page 2 of the Specification explained, correctly, that the greater the proportion of vermiculite, the more light weight the product. However, the last sentence of the paragraph, because of the typographical error ("730" should have been --130--), is directly contradictory. This last sentence of the paragraph is not needed for a complete supporting description, and the deletion thereof will make the Specification clearer and avoid confusion.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the Specification by the current amendment. The attachment is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Respectfully submitted,



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April 4, 2003

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 2, third paragraph has been amended as follows:

We have also found that the resultant product has good mechanical strength properties and for example with densities in the range 250-300Kg/m<sup>3</sup>, flexural strengths of 0.15-0.45 MPa are achieved. Experiments have shown that the density is preferably no less than 140Kg/m<sup>3</sup> to achieve acceptable flexural strength in a self-supporting product. Furthermore, the greater the proportion of the vermiculite, the more light weight the product. Thus, we have found that a product incorporating 95% dry weight vermiculite leads to a density of about 730Kg/m<sup>3</sup> while 35% dry weight vermiculite leads to a density of about 350 Kg/m<sup>3</sup>.